

Year 11 Assessment - Guidance for students and parents/carers - Blatchington Mill School 2021

Our continuing intention as we support Year 11 through the final months of their time at Blatchington Mill School is to be as transparent as possible about the decision making process and expectations of students in how their grades will be determined. This will mean that students are able to understand clearly the specific opportunities that they have in each subject to secure/improve their grade.

Whilst we are still awaiting more detailed guidance from the exam boards on areas such as how grade boundaries should be applied we are determined to plan as much as we can in advance of this, and keep you informed at each stage of the process.

We know from our assessment of this cohort of students all the way from Year 7, and supported by the evidence of their completed work on their GCSE courses so far, that they are collectively on track to achieve the best results this school ever has. This is fantastic of course, and will be an end to their time at Blatch that we can all celebrate. It is for this reason that we maintained a focus on exam preparation and always felt that an opportunity to complete national exams was to their advantage. However, that is not an option, and instead we must make sure that our school processes deliver the results our students deserve.

The exam boards have been clear that there is no barrier to setting the grades that the students deserve and that we should not, as a school, apply a limit on predicted grades to match the performance of previous cohorts of students and their results. However, where results are above the prior performance of a school the exam boards will investigate and check the evidence base that these results have been awarded on. Given that we expect our Year 11s to outperform the school's previous results, we must prepare for this process as a school and ensure we have robust evidence and clear and transparent systems that we can share with the exam boards so they do not lower students' results on this basis.

We know how hard our students have worked and taken seriously each opportunity so far to demonstrate their ability in each subject. We will include work and assessments that students have already completed to reflect this. The exam boards have been clear that student's grades should be based on work already completed **and** work set over the coming period up until June 18th.

We also know that our students are likely to be able to demonstrate over the next three months, as they approach the end of their courses, how well they can perform in each subject. Therefore we have created opportunities for students to undertake further assessments that will be given more weight than those previously completed, including those that will happen in the two assessment weeks we have planned.

What is most important at this point in the process is that our students are all aware of what they need to be learning/revising/completing. This will ensure that they are able to demonstrate their ability in each subject to as high a standard as possible. Our teachers will support them fully in doing so and will help students to catch up with any missing work as needed.

Please do read our Frequently Asked Questions (at the end of this document) carefully as we have compiled answers to lots of questions that our students have asked this week so that we can help to reassure them.

The table below lists each subject and the assessments that will count towards each student's grade in that subject, as well as the weighting of each assessment. Students will all have the same pieces of work counted towards their grades and where students have, through no fault of their own, missed assessments, we will provide opportunities for them to catch up.

All assessments highlighted in green mean that this assessment has already taken place. Those not highlighted are either currently taking place in lessons or still to come.

Core subjects:

Assessment Title	Weighting of final grade	Completion/assessment date
English Language GCSE - AQA		
1. Creative writing	10%	Y10
2. Language Paper 1 Section A	15%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Language Paper 2 Question 4	10%	Y11 - Feb.
4. Language Paper 2 Question 5	25%	Y11 - Lessons
5. Language Paper 1 Question 4	12.5%	Y11 - Lessons
6. Language Paper 1 Question 5	27.5%	Y11 - Assessment Week 2
English Literature GCSE - AQA		
1. Essay on An Inspector Calls	10%	Y10
2. Macbeth assessment	15%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Macbeth assessment	20%	Y11 - Assessment Week 1
4. An Inspector Calls assessment	25%	Y11 - Assessment Week 1
5. A Christmas Carol assessment	30%	Y11 - Assessment Week 2
Maths GCSE - Foundation - Edexcel		
1. Foundation November assessment	12%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Paper 1 - Non-calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 1
3. Paper 2 - Alternative calculator paper	22%	Y11- Assessment Week 1
4. Paper 3 - Calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 2
5. Paper 4 - Calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 2
Maths GCSE- Higher - Edexcel		
1. Higher November assessment	12%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Paper 1 - Non-calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 1
3. Paper 2 - Alternative calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 1
4. Paper 3 - Calculator paper	22%	Y11 - Assessment Week 2
5. Paper 4 - Calculator paper	22%	Assessment Week 2

Assessment Title	Weighting of final grade	Completion/assessment date
Science GCSE - Combined - Foundation - Edexcel		
1. Y10 Exam - Paper 1 Early Topics (no tier)	10%	Y10
2. Y11 Foundation Assessment - Paper 1 Topics (all)	20%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Y11 Foundation Paper 1a	15%	Assessment Week 1
4. Y11 Foundation Paper 1b	15%	Assessment Week 1
5. Y11 Foundation Paper 2a	20%	Assessment Week 2
6. Y11 Foundation Paper 2b	20%	Assessment Week 2
Science GCSE - Combined - Higher - Edexcel		
1. Y10 Exam - Paper 1 Early Topics (no tier)	10%	Y10
2. Y11 Higher Assessment - Paper 1 Topics (all)	20%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Y11 Higher Paper 1a	15%	Assessment Week 1
4. Y11 Higher Paper 1b	15%	Assessment Week 1
5. Y11 Higher Paper 2a	20%	Assessment Week 2
6. Y11 Higher Paper 2b	20%	Assessment Week 2
Science GCSE - Triple		
Biology		
1. Y10 Triple Content Exam - Paper 1 Early Topics	5%	Y10
2. Y11 Higher Assessment - Non-Triple Paper 1 Topics and Triple Specific Paper 1	15%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Y11 Biology 1	40%	Assessment Week 1
4. Y11 Biology 2	40%	Assessment Week 2
Chemistry		
5. Y10 Triple Content Exam - Paper 1 Early Topics	5%	Y10
6. Y11 Higher Assessment - Non-Triple Paper 1 Topics and Triple Specific Paper 1	15%	Y11 - Nov.
7. Y11 Chemistry 1	40%	Assessment Week 1
8. Y11 Chemistry 2	40%	Assessment Week 2
Physics		
9. Y10 Triple Content Exam - Paper 1 Early Topics	5%	Y10
10. Y11 Higher Assessment - Non-Triple Paper 1 Topics and Triple Specific Paper 1	15%	Y11 - Nov.
11. Y11 Physics 1	40%	Assessment Week 1
12. Y11 Physics 2	40%	Assessment Week 2

Option subjects:

Arabic - Edexcel		
1. Autumn Term assessment on Theme 1 to 5	25%	Y11 - Nov.
2. 3 writing exam questions set in lessons	15%	In lessons
3. 3 reading paper questions from topics covered	5%	In lessons
4. 3 listening paper questions from topics covered	5%	In lessons
5. Assessment 1 on Themes 1 to 5	25%	Assessment Week 1
6. Assessment 2 on Themes 1 to 5	25%	Assessment Week 2
Additional speaking endorsement assessment	n/a	In lessons
Art GCSE - Edexcel		
1. Major project - Reflection - Artist investigations	25%	In lessons/independent
2. Major project - Reflection - Experimentation and refinement	25%	In lessons/independent
3. Major project - Reflection - Observation and recording	25%	In lessons/independent
4. Major project - Reflection - Personal response (final piece)	25%	In lessons/independent
Child Development - Cambridge National - OCR		
1. Unit R019 - Understand the equipment & nutritional needs of children from birth to five years	30%	In lessons/independent
2. Unit R020 - Understand the development of a child from birth to five years	30%	In lessons/independent
3. Unit R018 - Health & well-being for child development	40%	Exam board will apply Teacher Assessed Grades based on grades in other units
Computer Science GCSE - OCR		
1. Assessment - Complete syllabus except chapter 1.8	25%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Programming Project	12.5%	In lessons
3. Unit 1 + 2 - Assessments - Computer Systems & Programming	12.5%	In lessons
4. Final Assessment - Computer Systems	25%	Assessment Week 1
5. Final Assessment - Programming	25%	Assessment Week 2

Dance GCSE - AQA		
1. Component 2 - Written Paper	5%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Component 1 - Performance: Set Phrase and Performance: Duet/Trio/Solo	40%	In lessons
3. Component 1 - Choreography	30%	In lessons
4. Component 2 - Written paper	25%	Assessment Week 2
Design & Technology GCSE - AQA		
1. Theory assessment	10%	Y11 - Nov.
2. NEA Project, including practical work	60%	In lessons
3. Drawing assessment	10%	Assessment Week 1
4. Theory assessment - Core technical & specialist technical principles & designing & making principles	20%	Assessment Week 2
Drama GCSE - AQA		
1. Unit 2: Devising Drama/ The Cheat 3.2.2 and The Cheat 3.2.1- Creating devised Drama	50%	Y11 - Dec.
2. Unit 3: Texts in Practice	20%	In lessons
3. Unit 1 : Understanding Drama- Set play 3.1.2 Blood Brothers	15%	Assessment Week 1
4. Unit 1 : Understanding Drama- Set play 3.1.3 Live Theatre production 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie'.	15%	Assessment Week 2
French GCSE - AQA		
1. Autumn Term assessment on Theme 1 materials	25%	Y11 - Nov.
2. 3 writing exam questions set in lessons	12.5%	In lessons
3. 3 reading paper questions from topics students have covered	6.25 %	In lessons
4. 3 listening paper questions from topics covered	6.25 %	In lessons
5. Assessment 1 on Themes 1, 2 and 3 - Reading & Listening	33%	Assessment Week 1
6. Assessment 2 on themes 1, 2 and 3 - Writing	17%	Assessment Week 2
Additional speaking endorsement assessments	N/A	In lessons
Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE - Eduqas		
1. Theory assessment	10%	Y11 - Nov.
2. NEA Coursework & practicals	70%	In lessons
3. Theory Assessment - Principles of Food Preparation	10%	Assessment Week 1
4. Theory Assessment - Principles of Food Preparation	10%	Assessment Week 2

Further Maths GCSE - AQA		
1. Assessment - Calculator paper	10%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Assessment Paper 1 (Non-calculator)	30%	Assessment Week 1
3. Assessment Paper 2 (Part a non-calculator, part b calculator)	30%	In lessons
4. Assessment Paper 3 (Calculator)	30%	Assessment Week 2
Geography GCSE - OCR		
1. UK In the 21st Century - End of Unit Assessment.	4%	Y11 - Sept.
2. Distinctive Landscapes - End of Unit Assessment	4%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Assessment - Human and Physical Geography	15%	Y11 - Dec.
4. Climate change - End of Unit Assessment	6%	In lessons
5. Sustaining Ecosystems - End of Unit Assessment	6%	In lessons
6. GCSE Paper 3 - Geographical Exploration	20%	Assessment Week 1
7. UK in the 21st century - Exam Question	10%	In lessons
8. River Management - Exam Question	10%	In lessons
9. Assessment Paper - GCSE Paper 3 - Geographical Exploration	25%	Assessment Week 2
History GCSE - Edexcel		
1. Assessment Paper - Paper 3, Option 30 - Russia and the USSR 1917-41.	5%	Y11 - Dec.
2. Practice questions (3a, 3b and 3c) on interpretations of the 5 year plans and practice question (3d) on the impact of 5 year plans in the USSR.	15%	In lessons
3. Assessment - Russia and the USSR	40%	Assessment Week 1
4. Assessment - The History of Medicine 1250-present	40%	Assessment Week 2
Latin GCSE - Eduqas		
1. Assessment on Component 1: Latin Language	5%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Assessment on Component 3B: Roman Civilization (Roman Britain)	5%	Y11 - Jan.
3. Assessment on Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources (Magic & Superstition)	5%	In lessons
4. Assessment on Component 3B: Roman Civilization (Roman Britain)	15%	In lessons
5. Assessment on Component 1: Latin Language	45%	Assessment Week 1
6. Assessment on Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources (Magic & Superstition)	25%	Assessment Week 2

Media Studies GCSE - Eduqas		
1. Assessment: Film posters, advertising: Media language and representation	5%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Component 3: Practical Production coursework: Film promotion or magazine work	40%	In lessons/independent
3. Assessment: Media Industries and Audiences: Film and Radio Industries: Music video context	25%	Assessment Week 1
4. Assessment: Media Language and Representation: Magazines and Film Posters: Crime Drama Context	30%	Assessment Week 2
Music BTEC - Edexcel		
1. Unit 1 - The Music Industry - external exam	25%	Y11 - Jan.
2. Unit 2 - Managing a Music Product	25%	In lessons/independent
3. Unit 5 - Introducing Music Performance Final Performance	25%	Independent
4. Unit 4 - Introducing Music Composition (all coursework and composition log book)	25%	In lessons
Music GCSE - OCR		
1. Unit J536/05 - Listening and Appraising - Assessment	8%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Unit J536/05 - Listening and Appraising Assessment	8%	In lessons
3. Unit J536/05 - Listening and Appraising Assessment	12%	Assessment Week 1
4. Unit J536/05 - Listening and Appraising Assessment	12%	Assessment Week 2
5. Unit J536 A/01 - Final Solo Performance	30%	Independent
6. Unit J536 A/01 - Composition and Composition Brief	30%	In lessons
Photography GCSE - AQA		
1. Major project - Photographer investigations	25%	In lessons/independent
2. Major project - Experimentation, exploration and refinement	25%	In lessons/independent
3. Major project - Observation and recording	25%	In lessons/independent
4. Major project - Personal response - final piece	25%	In lessons/independent
PE GCSE - Edexcel		
1. Assessment - theory paper	10%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Practical Performance	40%	Y10/Y11
3. Assessment - Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems	30%	Exam week 1 in April
4. Assessment - Component 2: Health and Performance	20%	Exam week 2 in May

Prince's Trust Qualification		
Students complete two out of three of the following units: Digital Skills, Personal Project, Managing Money.	100%	In lessons/independent
Sociology GCSE - AQA		
1. Selection of tasks based on Crime and Deviance - social control question 8 marks, crime statistics essay 12 marks, Carlen methods study - 12 marks, ethnicity and crime essay 12 marks	12.5%	Y11 - Autumn term
2. Assessment on family and methods topics	25%	Y11 - Nov.
3. Meritocracy essay and 3 other exam style questions	12.5%	In lessons
4. Assessment on stratification questions	25%	Assessment Week 1
5. Assessment on education questions	25%	Assessment Week 2
Spanish GCSE - AQA		
1. Autumn Term assessment on Theme 1 materials	25%	Y11 - Nov.
2. 3 writing exam questions set in lessons	12.5%	In lessons
3. 3 reading paper questions from topics students have covered	6.25 %	In lessons
4. 3 listening paper questions from topics covered	6.25 %	In lessons
5. Assessment 1 on Themes 1, 2 and 3 - Reading & Listening	33%	Assessment Week 1
6. Assessment 2 on themes 1, 2 and 3 - Writing	17%	Assessment Week 2
Additional speaking endorsement assessments	N/A	In lessons
Sport BTEC - Edexcel		
1. Unit 3 - Applying the Principles of Personal Training	25%	Y10
2. Unit 2 - Practical Performance in Sport	25%	Based on grades in other units
3. Unit 1 - Fitness for Sport and Exercise	25%	Assessment Week 1
4. Unit 5 - The Sports Performer in Action	25%	In lessons/independent
Stage Production BTEC - Edexcel		
1. Unit 2: Developing Skills in the Performing Arts:Back to the 80s	50%	Y10
2. Unit 1: Exploring the Performing Arts	50%	In lessons
Statistics GCSE - Edexcel		
1. November Assessment	10%	Y11 - Nov.
2. Assessment - Paper 1	34%	Assessment Week 1
3. Assessment - Paper 2	22%	In lessons
4. Assessment - Paper 3	34%	Assessment Week 2

Textiles GCSE - AQA

1. Artist research - Develop Ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources	25%	In lessons/independent
2. Experimenting and Samples - Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes,	25%	In lessons/independent
3. Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.	25%	In lessons
4. Final Responses - Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language	25%	In lessons

Frequently Asked Questions

Logistics

How do I know when each assessment is taking place?

- Assessments in lessons:
 - Your teachers will tell you when each assessment is happening and post this information in your Google Classroom so you can check it if you're unsure.
 - Your teachers will post the specific dates of assessments to the SIMs homework app so that your parents/carers know which assessments you have coming up on which day.
- Assessment weeks:
 - Both assessment weeks will follow the same schedule for most subjects.
 - The dates of the assessment weeks are: 19-23 April and 24-28 May - we have deliberately spaced these out to help you prepare most effectively.
 - The schedule for the first assessment week is here:

Mon 19th April	Tue 20th April	Wed 21st April	Thu 22nd April	Fri 23rd April
Statistics	Drama	Computing	Music	Media
Maths	Science	English	Maths	Science
English	Geography	History	French	Sociology
	Further Maths	Latin	Spanish	Food
		PE	Arabic	Design

How will the assessment weeks work?

- You will only come into school for the assessments you are taking - you will revise at home when you don't have assessments.
- Core exams are scheduled for the middle session of the day (so everyone will be in for at least one assessment every day that week) so that you will not need to go home between exams.
- You will receive an individual timetable for each assessment week that shows you when you will take each exam (please don't worry if it looks like you will have two exams at the same time - you won't, you will take one at a different time on the same day and we will let you know individually how this will work).
- You will complete all assessments in your usual bubble classroom for each day so that we can continue to keep all our safety measures in place.
- You will be expected to place your chromebook/mobile phone/smart watches in your bag and place this at the side of the room for all assessments.
- If you, or your bubble, has to self-isolate during this week we will put alternate plans in place quickly to enable you to complete your assessments as planned.

Missed work

What happens if I've missed an assessment?

- If you've missed any assessments that were part of online work or completed in lessons you will need to catch up on these as quickly as you are able to so that your teachers can mark them - all the instructions/support for work for the whole year is in your Google Classroom so everything you need will be there. If you can't find any instructions you need please contact your teacher.
- If you missed any of the assessments taken as part of the planned assessment weeks before Christmas we will organise for you to catch up on these.

How long will I have to catch up with work?

- The sooner that you are able to catch up with any work missing the more time you will have to focus on revising for the assessments in the assessment weeks that are worth a higher percentage of your grades - please aim to catch up on missed work by Easter.
- Each subject may need to give you individual deadlines to help you manage the workload in that subject.

Revision

How much time should I spend revising for each subject?

- A sensible amount of time to spend revising for each subject over Easter is about 4 hours per subject in total - this means that you can also have a substantial amount of time each day to rest and relax too so that you are able to perform your best when you come back into school for the first assessment week.
- Your teachers will give you specific guidance on which areas to focus on revising which will make it manageable in the time you have available to revise.

How do I know what to revise for each assessment?

- Each subject is in the process of writing revision lists/specific guidance that will support you in knowing which areas to revise for each assessment.
- Revision lists will be published in your Google Classrooms and, next week, on our website too.

Which revision tools can I use?

- Your teachers will guide you to specific resources for each subject, recommending the most useful ones, e.g. BBC Bitesize.
- We have purchased GCSE Pod <https://www.gcsepod.com/> for you to use which covers most subjects in easy-to-revise chunks:
 - If you find it hard to revise you can listen to these pods when walking/exercising or put the subtitles on while you watch - reading the points at the same time as listening to help them stick in your mind
 - GCSE Pod also has lots of pods that we've used with you in tutor time on Study Skills that show you how to revise so if you're not sure - watch them again!

Grades

How do I know how well I'm currently achieving in each subject?

- We will soon be re-issuing you a copy of the marks you achieved in each assessment in the assessment weeks before Christmas so you know exactly how well you're doing so far.

How will my assessments be marked?

- Your teachers and other members of our teaching staff will be marking your assessments and giving you a number of marks for each assessment.
- They will use current markschemes from the exam boards until we are given updated guidance on assessing work from the exam boards (expected 29 March).
- We will carefully check all our marking through our moderation (checking) processes to make sure all assessments have been marked fairly and accurately.

When will I be given my assessment marks?

- As each assessment is marked we will let you know the mark you achieved so that you know how you're doing each step of the way (this will take some time for each assessment as all our Year 11 teachers are teaching large numbers of Year 11s and we need to give them time to mark them carefully).
- It's really important to know though that your marks may change slightly because we will put moderation (checking) processes in place after May half-term to make sure that all your assessments have been marked fairly and accurately.

What do I do if I'm worried about how I've performed on an assessment that's already been completed?

- We have deliberately weighted your assessments towards the end of the course, when you are likely to perform your best, to give you all the highest chance of success overall. You are likely to achieve better overall by concentrating on revising effectively for the assessments still to come.
- If you are particularly worried about a piece of work please speak to your teacher about it in the first instance.

How will my assessments be graded?

- We are still awaiting guidance from the exam boards (due to be published on 29 March) about exactly how they will expect us to apply grade boundaries to the marks that we will have for your assessments.
- When we have the exam board guidance we will add that to our planning and issue more detailed guidance to you.

When will I get my results?

- GCSE results will be released to all students on Thursday 12 August - we will let you know the exact details of how you will receive your results nearer to the time.

What do I do if I'm worried I won't get the grades for my college place?

- We hope that by showing you now what you need to do for each subject that all of you will be able to achieve the grades you need to progress to your chosen pathway next year.
- Ms Hall is available throughout this process to help and guide you about your college and P16 options and you can book a time to talk to her.

Seeking support

What do I do if I'm worried about anything at all to do with my assessments/school/next year?

- Please make sure you talk to us as soon as possible, we want to support you fully through your last months with us and will help you manage any worries that you may have.